

REPORT UPON SPECIMENS OF *DIATRÆA* GUILD-
ING (LEPIDOPTERA, PYRALIDÆ) IN THE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY COLLECTION

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MARACAY, VENEZUELA

I am greatly obliged to Professor W. T. M. Forbes for giving me the opportunity to examine the various specimens of *Diatræa* in the collection of Cornell University, which he has kindly sent to me on loan for study. The collection has proved to be of unusual interest, and I therefore have pleasure in submitting the following report, which Professor Forbes has asked to have published.

Among the fifty-seven specimens examined, which represent the whole range of the genus from the United States of America to Argentina, fourteen species are recognized.

The arrangement of species in the following list is chronological. References are given to the original description, and to the first transfer to *Diatræa* where transference has occurred; synonyms and other references are given only where considered necessary.

LEPIDOPTERA

Fam. Pyralidæ

SUBFAM. CRAMBINÆ

Diatræa Guild.

Diatræa Guilding 1828, Trans. Soc. Encour. Arts, etc., xlvi: 148.

1. *Diatræa saccharalis* (Fabr.).

Phalæna saccharalis Fabricius 1794, Skrift. af Naturh.-Selsk., iii(2): 64, pl. vii, fig. 1 (Danish West Indies).

Diatræa saccharalis (Fabr.) Comstock 1881, U. S. Dept. Agr. Ent. Rept. 1880: 240. (Not *D. saccharalis* (?) (Fabr.) Comstock, l.c.: 243, = *D. crambidoides* (Grt.)).

Sugar Cane Moth Borer.

U. S. A., TEXAS: Brownsville, Oct. 1938 (C. G. Anderson),

1 ♀. PUERTO RICO: Cayey, Nov. 1947 (J. P. & L. G. Huntton), 1 ♀. TRINIDAD: Fyzabad, Feb. 1928 (N. A. W. via Parish), 1 ♀. SURINAM: Moengo, Boven Cottica R., May 1927 (Forbes), 1 ♀. VENEZUELA, DISTRITO FEDERAL: El Valle, "pupa an caña de azúcar," Feb. & Apr. 1945 (F. Gomez Alvarez), 1 ♂, 1 ♀. BRAZIL, MINAS GERAES: Viçosa, Mar. 1932 (E. J. Hambleton), 1 ♂, 1 ♀; RIO GRANDE DO SUL: Pelotas (C. M. de Biezanko), 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀. ARGENTINA, SANTA FE: Feb. 1920 (Cornell University Expedition), 1 ♀; San Cristobal, Feb. 1920 (Cornell University Expedition), 1 ♀; CORDOBA: Cruz del Eje, Sierra de Córdoba, Mar. 1920 (Cornell University Expedition), 1 ♀.

2. *Diatraea lineolata* (Walk.)

Leucania lineolata Walker 1856, List Lep. Ins. Brit. Mus., ix: 100 (Venezuela).

Diatraea lineolata (Walk.) Hampson 1895, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1895: 953. Neotropical Cornstalk Borer.

CUBA: Finca San Francisco, Caraballo, "larva criada del tallo del maiz," Aug. 1938 (D.G.; Universidad de Habana, Esc. I. Agronómica, Cát. "g"), 1 ♂. COLOMBIA: Juntas del Rio Tamana y Rio San Juan, 405 ft., Feb. 1909 (W. F. H. Rosenberg), 1 ♀. ECUADOR: Quevedo (Rosenberg), 1 ♀.

3. *Diatraea impersonatella* (Walk.)

Crambus impersonatellus Walker 1863, List Lep. Ins. Brit. Mus., xxvii: 163 (Venezuela; Santarem).

Diatraea impersonatella (Walk.) Box 1931, Bull. Ent. Res. xxii: 41, pl. iii, figs. 2, 3.

TRINIDAD: Fyzabad, Feb. 1928 (N. A. W. via Parish), 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀. VENEZUELA, TERRITORIO FEDERAL AMAZONAS: Sanariapo (S. of Puerto Ayacucho, Rio Orinoco), Sept. 1946 (R. Lichy), 1 ♂.

4. *Diatraea crambidoides* (Grt.)

Chilo crambidoides Grote 1880, Canad. Ent., xii: 15 (Kansas).

Diaratria (sic) *crambidoides* (Grt.) Grote 1882, New Check List N. Amer. Moths: 56.

Diatræa zeacolella Dyar 1911, Ent. News, xxii: 203 (North Carolina). Larger Cornstalk Borer.

U. S. A., NEW YORK: Long Island: Orient, Southold, E. Marion, Greenport, Shelter Is., various dates June 1934 to Aug. 1946 (R. Latham), 5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀; Eastport, Aug. 1941 (D. Raynor), 1 ♂; VIRGINIA: Petersburg, June 1917 (Bradley), 2 ♂♂; GEORGIA: May 1927 (Addison Ellsworth coll.), 1 ♂; Clarke Co., Aug. 1928 (Richards), 2 ♀♀; FLORIDA: Royal Palm State Park, Mar. 1939 (J. C. Bradley), 1 ♂; Florida City, Mar. 1936 (J. C. Franclemont), 1 ♀.

The above records from New York State appear to indicate the most northerly part of the range of this species. The male from Royal Palm State Park, Fla., is unusually small (expanse 22.5 mm.).

5. *Diatræa canella* Hamps.

Diatræa canella Hampson 1895, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) xvi: 349 (Grenada).

SURINAM: Moengo, Boven Cottica R., May 1927 (Forbes), 1 ♂.

6. *Diatræa minimifacta* Dyar

Diatræa minimifacta Dyar 1911, Ent. News, xxii: 202 (Trinidad); Box 1931, Bull. Ent. Res., xxii: 21.

Trinidadia minimifacta (Dyar) Dyar & Heinrich 1927, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., lxxi, no. 2691: 6, figs. 29, 48.

TRINIDAD: Fyzabad, Feb. 1928 (N. A. M. via Parish), 1 ♀.

The hind wing has veins 4 and 5 united, but not stalked, otherwise the venation appears to be normal.¹

7. *Diatræa grandiosella* Dyar

Diatræa grandiosella Dyar 1911, Ent. News, xxii: 203 (Mexico). Southwestern Cornstalk Borer.

U. S. A., ARIZONA: Tucson, Oct. 1939 (Crandall), 1 ♀. MEXICO: Guerrero (———), 2 ♀♀.

¹ The stalking of veins 4 and 5 was one of the characters on which Dyar and Heinrich based their genus *Trinidadia*, to accommodate this species. This question was discussed by me in some detail (*op. cit.*: 10, 21), and my conclusions led me to sink *Trinidadia* into *Diatræa*.—H.E.B.

8. *Diatræa angustella* Dyar

Diatræa angustella Dyar 1911, Ent. News, xxii: 205 (Brazil).

BRAZIL, MINAS GERAES: Vigosa, Oct.–Nov. 1930 (E. J. Hambleton), 1 ♂.

9. *Diatræa bellifactella* Dyar

Diatræa bellifactella Dyar 1911, Ent. News, xxii: 205 (Brazil).

TRINIDAD: Fyzabad, Feb. 1928 (N. A. W. via Parish), 1 ♂.
BRAZIL, SANTA CATHERINA: Nova Teutonia (27° 11', 52° 23'), Oct. 1939 (F. Plaumann), 1 ♂.

10. *Diatræa evanescens* Dyar

Diatræa evanescens Dyar 1917, Insec. Insc. Mens., v: 84 (Louisiana); Forbes 1920, Jour. N. Y. Ent. Soc., xxviii: 224; Dyar & Heinrich 1927, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., lxxi, no. 2691: 18, figs. 10, 57; Box 1931, Bull. Ent. Res., xxii: 40.

U. S. A., NORTH CAROLINA: Polloksville, Sept. 1931 (Bradley & Knorr), 1 ♂; GEORGIA: Clarke Co., Aug. 1928 (Richards), 1 ♂; TEXAS: Corpus Christi, June 1943, "at light" (W. M. Gordon), 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀.

The above records extend considerably the known range of this species, previously listed from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Missouri in the U. S. A.,² and (as *sobrinalis* Schs.) from Guatemala. According to Dyar and Heinrich, *evanescens* is extremely variable in size: "Male, 11–20 mm., female, 21–30 mm.". The present specimens from North Carolina and Texas are all small (males, 14–17.5 mm., females 14.5–15 mm.). The single male from Georgia (which has already been identified by Professor Forbes), is much larger (21 mm.).

11. *Diatræa indigenella* Dyar & Heinr.

Diatræa indigenella Dyar & Heinrich 1927, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., lxxi, no. 2691: 13, fig. 51 (Colombia).

COLOMBIA: Slopes of Pueblo Rico, San Juan, Choco, 5,200 ft., Aug. 1909 (W. F. H. Rosenberg), 2 ♀♀.

² In 1935, Mr. O. L. Cartwright kindly gave me one male: SOUTH CAROLINA: Florence, Aug. 1931, collected by himself; it has since been presented to the British Museum.

12. *Diatræa brunnescens* Box

Diatræa brunnescens Box 1931, Bull. Ent. Res., xxii: 29, pl. v, fig. 1 (Venezuela); 1935, xxvi: 326.

Diatræa incertella Box 1931, op. cit.: 30, pl. i, figs. 16, 17 (Brazil).

BRAZIL, MINAS GERAES: Viçosa (E. J. Hambleton), 1 ♂.

Previously known from Brazil (Rio de Janeiro) only by the unique male type of *incertella*.

13. *Diatræa busckella rosa* Heinr.

Diatræa busckella var. *rosa* Heinrich 1931, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., lxxix, no. 2879: 4 (Venezuela).

Diatræa busckella subsp. *rosa* (Heinr.) Box 1948, Bol. Entom. Venez., Caracas, vii: 39.

VENEZUELA: ———; Maracay, 1945 (F. Gomez Alvarez), 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀.

Two of these specimens (1 ♂, 1 ♀) are without locality labels, but they carry the collector's ms. numbers, which enable their provenience to be established as Venezuela.

14. *Diatræa savannarum* Box

Diatræa savannarum Box 1935, Bull. Ent. Res., xxvi: 332, pl. xii, figs. 3, 4. (British Guiana).

VENEZUELA, TERRITORIO FEDERAL AMAZONAS: Sanariapo (South of Puerto Ayacucho, Rio Orinoco), Oct. 6, 1946 (R. Lichy), 1 ♂.

This specimen is rather damaged, but is seen to be darker in color and much smaller (expanse 11.5 mm.) than any of the four males in the type series (16–20 mm.), so much so that it was at first believed to represent a new species. The genitalia, however, leave little doubt as to its identity.³

³ It is to be noted that Mr. Tans' photograph of the male genitalia accompanying the original description, and the slide of Dr. Lichy's specimen in the Cornell collection, both show the arms of the anellus to be crossed, whereas in the preparation before mounting they are seen to be quite free from each other.